

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/30/2008 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with T. Ling Chwang on 9/23/2008.

Please cancel claims 1-57 and claim 72.

Please add the following to the end of claim 58:

wherein step (d) comprises:

receiving the matched feature loops,

performing a profile analysis on each loop match,

building feature subtrees, wherein each of the feature subtrees contains necessary data to create a 3-D feature,

Art Unit: 2628

setting a relative volume operation for each of the feature subtrees, and building feature relations on the feature subtrees; and

step (e) comprises:

building a model tree based on the feature relations, and

producing a final feature tree based on the model tree to give the ordered list of three dimensional features.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 58, 61-63, 65-68, and 71 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior art does not disclose or render obvious the combination of elements recited in the claims as whole.

Specifically, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious the following limitations:

As per independent claim 58, the claimed:

"(d) performing a profile analysis and a feature analysis on the matched feature loops" and "step (d) comprises ... performing a profile analysis on each loop match ... building feature subtrees, where each of the feature subtrees contains necessary data to create a 3-D feature".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Art Unit: 2628

Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The following prior art made of record and relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: NPL Document: Shum et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel F. Hajnik whose telephone number is (571) 272-7642. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30A-5:00P).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka J. Chauhan can be reached on (571) 272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ulka Chauhan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
2628

Application/Control Number: 10/626,494

Page 5

Art Unit: 2628

/Daniel Hajnik/

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